

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
FLORIDA MARLINS

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 29, 1997*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Baseball's 1997 World Series Champions, the Florida Marlins. As a representative of South Florida and a native of Dade County, I am delighted to call the Marlins my "home team".

From the magnificent bald eagle's graceful flight into Pro Player Stadium to open Game One until Edgar Renteria's winning hit in the 11th inning of Game Seven, the World Series highlighted all that is great about the Florida Marlins and their fans. In five short years, this upstart expansion team has done what no other Major League team could do. The Marlins organization combined the talent, dedication, heart and fan support, to win not just the National League pennant, but to achieve the consummate prize in baseball.

This accomplishment was made possible through teamwork. The dream began with owners Wayne and Marti Huizenga and with Carl Barger. Team manager Jim Leyland and the players took on the challenge, and the organization and the fans provided the support and cheered them on. The Marlins are a team of destiny in the greatest sense of the word. Everyone involved since Day One made a crucial contribution to the team, and the result was the World Series Championship.

Mr. Speaker, the Florida Marlins fans are some of the most impressive I have ever seen. Each Series game at Pro Player broke the attendance record for the one before it, and last night's Rally broke all previous attendance records. The Miami Herald said it best: "nearly 70,000 South Florida baseball fans exploded, drunk on the joy that comes with earning baseball's biggest gleaming trophy."

Well done, Florida Marlins. The spirit of Carl Barger lives on, and your fans will never forget the thrill.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 29, 1997*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of maintaining peace in Israel. At \$8.2 million per day, America's expenditures in Israel mean United States taxpayers have much at stake in the region. Frankly, I was shocked when I first learned how much our Government sends to Israel in the way of foreign aid. We also maintain a U.S. Embassy there of 200 employees, and provide other relief and assistance.

In August, I went to Israel with five other Members of Congress—all conservatives with lots of questions. The mission was sponsored and paid by a nonprofit education foundation. My 7 days there proved to be among the most fascinating as a new Congressman. I met with several experts in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, United States-Israel defense co-

operation, Israeli defense, economics, and history. I also met with clergymen, local elected leaders, and Israeli and Palestinian citizens. I visited Jewish settlements, military outposts, and Palestinian territories.

We arrived in Jerusalem just after the suicide bombings in the Mahane Yehuda market killed 13 and wounded 168. I began to understand almost instantly how complicated the peace process is and how culture, geography, history, and religion make the objective a difficult one to achieve. I also deepened my belief that peace in the region is important to the United States and critical in achieving global stability.

Separate meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Senior Palestinian negotiator Dr. Saeb Erekat revealed genuine frustration over recent actions of the other. Both expressed concern about the degree to which progress achieved between Israelis and Palestinians had been eroded due to the recent terrorism.

They knew our delegation wanted to see more progress, but optimism was nowhere to be found that week. Instead, both men did their best to defend their policies. Netanyahu did so credibly.

I reaffirmed America's desire for peace as firm and strong and I assured both sides that the United States partnership with Israel is a lasting one. Clearly, our financial support will, and should, continue—unfortunately the foreign operations appropriations bill is currently mired with other unrelated problems which must be resolved in the Senate.

Regarding Israel's future, I came away with several observations. What extremists and terrorists fear most is a durable desire for peace, certainly on behalf of the United States, but especially on behalf of those Israeli and Palestinian leaders who refuse to give in to terrorism. There is a political center which must work hard to render the extremes irrelevant.

Though aimed at Israel, the most recent episodes of extremist violence, in fact, threaten both societies. Palestinians are sometimes direct targets, and suffer economic hardship and restricted mobility to Israel retaliation. The hatred levied by Hamas and Islamic Jihad toward Israel, also has a devastating impact on ordinary Palestinians and their hopes for space. Successful resolution entails all sides standing firm against terrorism, returning to the bargaining table, and confirming an unyielding commitment to the negotiation process.

Last month, I met with Secretary of State Madeline Albright who, though she expressed frustration with the scarce results of her recent visit, restated the U.S. commitment to do all it can to promote peace. We will help Israel achieve real security addressing external threats and terrorism, by pursuing treaties establishing normal relations between Israel and her neighbors, namely Syria and Lebanon. Moreover, we will always be willing to facilitate, and when appropriate, mediate peaceful accords.

It is undeniable that the recent bombings have severely set back the peace talks that began in Oslo in 1993. The lax approach to suppressing terrorism on the part of the Palestinian Authority and Chairman Arafat's suspension of security cooperation further suppresses optimism, and his repeated calls for a jihad—holy war—belies his stated embrace of the peace process.

The United States must push the Palestinian Authority to fulfill the terms of past agreements in order to allow progress on interim agreements under Oslo with an eye toward accelerated permanent status talks. Other pressure must be put on Arafat to discontinue his inflammatory rhetoric and specifically amend the Palestinian Covenant regarding the destruction of Israel.

However, America must never confuse its role in the Middle East. We are not a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The chief responsibility rests in the hands of those who have the most at stake in achieving political and social harmony.

America cannot, nor should not dictate solutions and we must be confident that Arabs and Israelis are fully capable of forging the most durable agreements. Our role is predicated on the desire of both parties to have us work with them to secure peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 29, 1997*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rollcall vote No. 540, the vote on H.R. 1479. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM  
ACT

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 29, 1997*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. ENSIGN raised a point of order established by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 in connection with H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. I commend him for doing so. This is another example of how we envisioned this unfunded mandates legislation working. The goal of the Unfunded Mandates Act was not to prohibit Congress from ever considering or enacting legislation that contained unfunded mandates, but to do so after having cost information, a separate debate on whether and how to fund the mandate and a recorded vote on imposing such a mandate. Today, we did that. The House agreed to continue to consider this legislation, notwithstanding the mandates that exist in this bill, after having had full information, separate consideration, and accountability with a recorded vote. I believe the procedure worked well today and continues to be an effective mechanism to ensure that Congress is accountable to the American people for mandates this body may impose on State and local governments as well as the private sector.

MEXICO MUST ADHERE TO THE  
WTO ANTIDUMPING CODE

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 29, 1997*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my serious concern with Mexico's unfair and